

TORRANCE HERALD

February 19, 1948

Torrance, California

Section B

Terminal Leave Deadline Near, Warns Caldwell

The many veterans who have not yet applied for terminal leave pay for enlisted service during World War II were warned today by J. G. Caldwell, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center that only a short time remains for the filing of applications.

August 31, 1948, is the deadline for filing these claims, and Caldwell urged that all veterans who have not yet done so arrange to file their applications immediately because of the possibility that the lack of certain vital information may cause delays.

Former enlisted men are entitled to pay in the grade held at the time of discharge for all furlough time which they did not receive while in the service. The applicant may receive the pay either in cash or government bonds.

Survivors of deceased servicemen and guardians of incompetent veterans also are eligible to apply.

The application forms and full information regarding computation of unused furlough time may be obtained at the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, located at 1339 Post ave.

Caldwell pointed out that veterans and their dependents may receive advice and assistance with regard to all veterans' rights and benefits at the local office, and no charge is ever made for this service.

New Santa Fe Streamliners Double Service

Santa Fe Railway's deluxe Diesel-powered streamliners, the Super Chief and El Capitan, now operating on alternate days between Los Angeles and Chicago, will go into daily service effective Feb. 29, it was announced today by Fred G. Gurley, president.

Present running time of 39 hours and 45 minutes between the two cities will remain in effect. The Super Chief's daily departure time from Los Angeles will be 8 p. m., as at present, but El Capitan's daily departure time will be changed to 1:30 p. m.

The new arrangement doubling service to and from California on these famous trains, was made possible by delivery to Santa Fe of latest-type lightweight equipment which has been on order for several years, Gurley said.

The daily Super Chief will be an all-room train with roomettes for individuals, bedroom-compartment suites, drawing room-compartment suites and drawing room-bedroom suites providing more spacious accommodations for family and other groups. Bedrooms, compartments and drawing rooms will also be available.

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Hermosa Beach

EXTENSION OF WATER LINE IN NORTH TORRANCE SEEN AS SUFFICIENT PIPE FOUND

Sufficient pipe to solve the immediate water problems of a portion of North Torrance has been located on the market and Manager W. H. Stanger, of the water districts, will ask for permission to buy the material at once.

Stanger said that some 12,000 feet of pipe had been found, and that in order to meet the needs of the residents near 182nd street and Prairie avenue, where wells are nearly dry, some 6,000 feet of pipe will be needed. The pipe will substitute for that already on order for delivery in 1949, which when received will go on the general stock pile.

The City Council, sitting as a Board of Directors of the three municipal water districts, recently ruled that no further subdivision development can be approved until water pipe problems are cleared through Manager Stanger. The manager had pointed out that failure of subdividers to determine whether or not the water districts can furnish pipe prior to starting development had caused a drain on supply and considerable inconvenience both to the water districts and the subdividers.

City Administrator George W. Stevens will consult with Manager Stanger on the various problems, it was decided.

The central district is preparing plans for a new water well in the vicinity of Torrance ball park, the cost of which is estimated at about \$25,000, and the cost of changing over electric power on present wells throughout the area from 50 to 60 cycle is being considered.

In a general statement regarding the problems of the water district, Stanger, in a letter to the directors, said:

"I am writing this report to try to make you understand why a head of a department blows his top at times and is ready to give up and let someone else try to cope with the problems of running a department efficiently, so that we won't have to beg for bond issues to maintain a water supply for the people of Torrance.

"I have been on this job for 11 years and my ambition was to give the people an honest administration, the employees a sense of security, an opportunity to advance to be treated like human beings rather than a number on the payroll, so they would have a sense of human dignity that comes from feeling that their work is useful to society as a whole.

"There have been many obstacles thrown in our way in the past and we have been able to hurdle them and go on our way. In the last few years we have met with difficulties that have been hard to overcome, but we have tried to go along and take them in our stride.

"Following are just a few examples of what the Water Departments have been faced with in the last few years:

"No. 1—We build up a reserve for future development and the Council takes it to finance the City without paying interest or paying back the loan in full, so that the planning in the Water Department can be financed.

"No. 2—We are or are not under Civil Service and, when a new employee is wanted, we are forced to take him from the laid-off list of the City and when he gets to a point where he is of some value to the Water Department, the City recalls him and the Water Department has to go through all the red tape again.

"No. 3—The Planning Commission and City Council put their O.K. on new subdivisions without consulting the Water Department as to the possibility of getting water service for the contemplated new subdivisions. The first we know about them is when we see them listed in the Torrance Herald. The promise on materials for water lines nowadays is from 8

to 18 months and the subdividers are left out on a limb.

"No. 4—The City creates new water districts and tells the Water Department to operate them, without any finances whatsoever, not realizing the amount of work and expense involved in setting up a water department to comply with the auditor's strict requirements. We have taken over two new water districts and, fortunately, we have kept all three districts on the black side of the books.

"No. 5—The Walteria District is like No Man's Land. Fifty per cent of the water mains are on private property and of very poor construction. Streets and alleys are not graded, or even surveyed, so that lines can be run on City property. People demand that lines be taken off their property, but there is no place to put them.

"No. 6—An engineering firm is employed to plan and install the new water districts, but the Water Department crew has to handle all of the pipe and fittings for the new system and this takes a lot of time and hard work.

"The Water Department must operate 365 days a year and when meter reading days fall on a holiday, Saturday or Sunday, the field crew must work on these days. The office force must work on meter reading days and when the first of the month falls on Saturday and Sunday, the office force must work. Our pumps and wells must be taken care of every day if we are to keep water in the lines. We operate under different conditions than most of the City departments. We must do the Water Department work first and then take a little time for home life and recreation. The whole crew is subject to call 24 hours a day and go out in all kinds of weather and repair broken services, mains and hydrants, whether it be night or day, hot or cold, raining or dry. In the office the books must balance every night and at the end of the month before the bills are put in the mail.

"Our policy has been to work as a family and we have tried to keep a good, clean record of all water departments. We have no secrets in the Water Department. The business of the districts is talked over with all of the employees, so that they understand the budgeting as well as the field work. We have worked together as friends in the Water Department and we believe in treating people like human beings.

"In the following report, you must keep in mind that at no time have we had over seven employees in the field and most of the time four. In the office we got along with one employee until all the books were transferred to the Water Department office and then we added another girl and, with the additional work and subdivisions, it was necessary to employ another girl.

"A normal year in the Water Department consists of installing 50 or less meters, laying 600 to 700 feet of pipe, together with cleaning, repairing and reading meters, operating pumping plants, etc.

"In the past 12 months this same crew has installed 406 meters, 35 hydrants, and laid 22,968 feet of pipe, together with their other routine work.

"Municipal Improvement District No. 1—225 5/8" meters; 19 1" meters; 2 1 1/2" meters; 9 2" meters; 1 3" meter; 2 4" meters; 1 6" meter; 1 8" meter; 14 hydrants; 2 fire protection services; 180 ft. 8" pipe; 16,256 ft. 6" pipe; 5,676 ft. 4" pipe.

"Municipal Water District No. 1—60 5/8" meters; 6 1" meters; 1 1/2" meters; 6 2" meters; 7 hydrants; 856 ft. 2 1/2" pipe; 1,026 ft. 4" pipe; 1,638 ft. 6" pipe.

"Municipal Water District No. 2—64 5/8" meters; 2 1" meters; 6 2" meters; 2,850 ft. 4" pipe; 5,200 ft. 6" pipe.

"I realize that the Board of Directors do not have much time to devote to the Water Department and have depended on the Superintendent as to the functions of the department. I also realize that in order to hold a good crew it is necessary to recognize and appreciate their loyalty by being willing to pay them for their services. In the last year the water works men proved their worth all over the

Metropolitan Starts Second Softening Unit

To finance the expansion of the softening and filtration plant operated as a part of the Colorado river aqueduct system, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District has accepted the bid of the Bank of America for the purchase of \$4,000,000 in district bonds.

The Bank of America was the highest of six sealed bids opened at a meeting of the District Board. The successful bidder was awarded a bid to buy the bonds at par value plus accrued interest at an interest rate of 2 1/2 percent and with a premium of \$85,209.

Sale of the Water District bonds follows action of the Board last week in awarding a contract for the construction of a second unit at its softening and filtration plant at La Verne. The new unit will double the capacity of the plant and will permit the softening and filtration of Colorado river water at the rate of more than 200,000,000 gallons per day. Work on the construction of the new plant will be rushed forward with all possible speed, according to Julian Hinds, general manager and chief engineer of the Water District. He stated that the 21 cities within the Metropolitan Water District will be using twice as much Colorado river water in 1948 as they did last year.

Increase In Disability Claims Noted

There has been a definite increase in the number of new disability insurance claims filed through the Long Beach District Disability Insurance office of the California Department of Employment, according to V. L. Hetzel, manager. Contributory factors are illness cases arising from the recent and continuing influenza epidemic as well as the various pulmonary disorders usually apparent at this time of year.

This upswing in disability claims filed by ill and injured workers is, furthermore, a natural result of amendments to the California Unemployment Insurance Act which became effective Jan. 1 of this year. Applications for sickness benefits indicate, says Hetzel, that workers are generally appreciative of such recent liberalizations of the law as permit them to be paid for each day of disability beyond the 7-day waiting period.

Other program changes, designed to simplify the filing of a disability claim for the worker as well as to increase the scope of potential benefits, permit an additional week's latitude in filing time, with 28 days instead of 21 days to be allowed before an application must be filed after the start of the disability. Maximum weekly awards have been boosted from \$20 to \$25 weekly.

Hetzel reports that the Long Beach District Disability Insurance office paid \$214,715 to disabled workers during the month of January. Of local interest is the fact that approximately \$21,471 of this entire amount was received by claimants in the Redondo Beach-South Bay area. Revised application forms and informational booklets may be secured at any Department of Employment office or by writing P.O. Box 469, Long Beach.

SKIDDING

Motorists who go into skids can usually pull themselves out by following a few simple rules. Steer in the direction of the skid. Take your foot off the accelerator but don't take the car out of gear. If you use the brakes, don't jam them on but pump the pedal lightly up and down.

United States by keeping the industries and people in water with half of their crews drafted into the armed forces and material tied up for war necessities. Now a building boom is on and the water men are called on to do the impossible by furnishing water to subdivisions in the outlying districts without pipe or a definite promise of delivery. Nothing can be done without water and it must be safe to use.

"I respectfully present this report to you so that what little time you have to meet with your Water Department, you will understand their problems and take the operations all the way out of politics and administer the business of the Water Department independently of the other City departments who operate on tax moneys."

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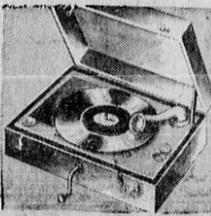


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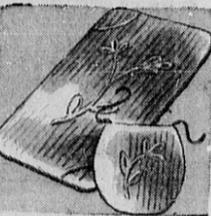
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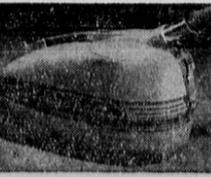
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